9. Other ____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with M. Robyn Carrillo on 19 January 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

From claim 5, line 2, delete the phrase "the group consisting essentially of" and insert the phrase "a group comprising" in its place.

Delete the entire text of claim 12, and insert "An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said apparatus is adapted to measure characteristics selected a group comprising air quality and water quality, and characteristics pertaining to weather, soils, sediments, volcanic gases, and hydrothermal fluids."

From claim 13, line 2, delete the phrase "the group consisting essentially of" and insert the phrase "a group comprising" in its place.

From claim 21, line 2, delete the phrase "the group consisting essentially of" and insert the phrase "a group comprising" in its place.

Delete the entire text of claim 25, and insert "An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said apparatus is adapted to measure characteristics selected a group comprising air quality and water quality, and characteristics pertaining to weather, soils, sediments, volcanic gases, and hydrothermal fluids."

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From claim 28, line 2, delete the phrase "the group consisting essentially of" and insert the phrase "a group comprising" in its place.

Delete the entire text of claim 31, and insert "An apparatus as recited in claim 27, wherein said apparatus is adapted to measure characteristics selected a group comprising air quality and water quality, and characteristics pertaining to weather, soils, sediments, volcanic gases, and hydrothermal fluids."

From claim 32, line 2, delete the phrase "the group consisting essentially of" and insert the phrase "a group comprising" in its place.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-23, 25-29, and 31-33 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose or suggest a support carriage and a support rod coupled thereto, adapted to contact the ground and provide vertical support to the boom.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George P. Bonanto whose telephone number is (571) 272-2182. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GPB

19 January 2006

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